

SON-1718

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the U.S. Patent Application of

Yukiyasu SUGANO et al.

Serial No. 09/478,812

Filed: January 7, 2000

For: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THIN FILM)
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND)
LASER IRRADIATION APPARATUS)



Group Art Unit: 2812

Examiner: V. Simkovic

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RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF INVENTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The Applicant, through its representatives and attorneys, hereby provisionally elects the invention of Group III, having claims 11, 12, 17, 18, 17, 28, 39, 40, 53, 54, 63 to 65, 73 and 74, in full and timely response to the election of invention requirement of October 16, 2000. A response is due within one month of the mailing of that election requirement. Please hold the remaining claims in abeyance pending a decision to file a divisional application as of right directed to either of the two non-elected invention, or for further action under MPEP §821.04.

According to this section, if an Applicant elects claims directed to a product, and a product claim is subsequently found to be allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all of the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined. Consequently, in making this election, the Applicant expressly reserves the right pursuant to this section of the MPEP to rejoin non-elected method or process claims should any of the product claims be found allowable, now or in the course of prosecution.

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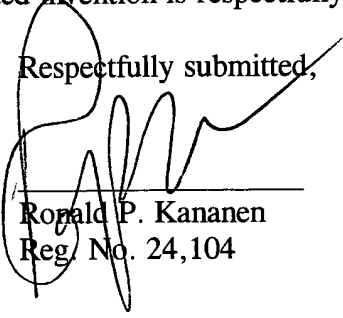
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Early examination on the merits of the elected invention is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 15, 2000



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